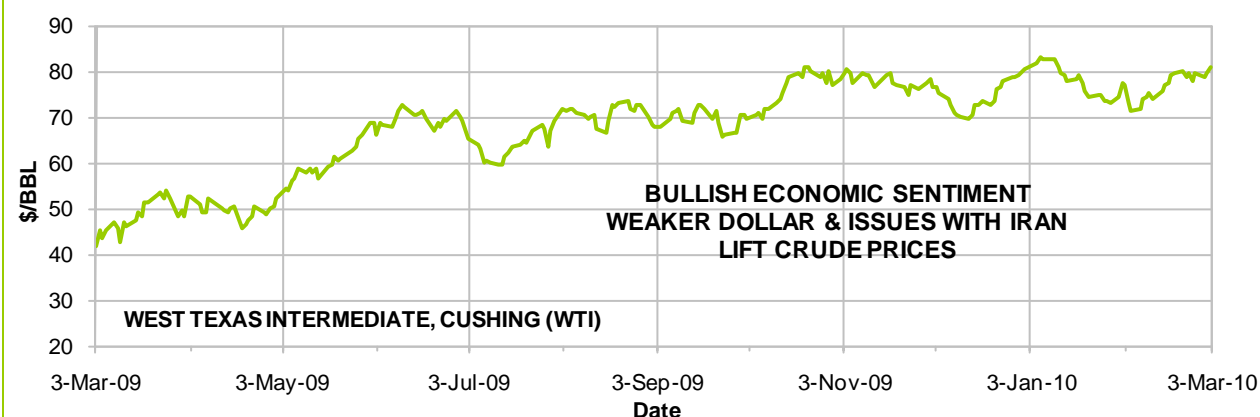


## Crude Oil



A production increase of 0.1%, a 1.7% rise in imports, and a 0.2% decline in crude sent to refineries sent inventories soaring by 4.0 million barrels this week. This was more than 5 times the size of the average gain for this time of year and 3 times the expected gain of 1.3 million. Crude stocks are 2.6% below last year but 5.8% above the 5-year average. Current inventory levels are at their second highest level for this date since 1993.

Positive economic news and a weaker dollar overcame bearish inventory data leading to higher crude oil prices this past week. Spot prices rose by \$1.18 this week and are up \$6.41 over the past 3 weeks. At \$80.88, they are \$39.34 (94.7%) higher than a year ago but 44.3% lower than 2008's peak price. Futures prices closed yesterday at \$82.60. They are up 79 cents for the week and \$5.72 over the past 3 weeks. They are \$35.06 (73.8%) higher than last year but 43.6% below 2008's peak price.

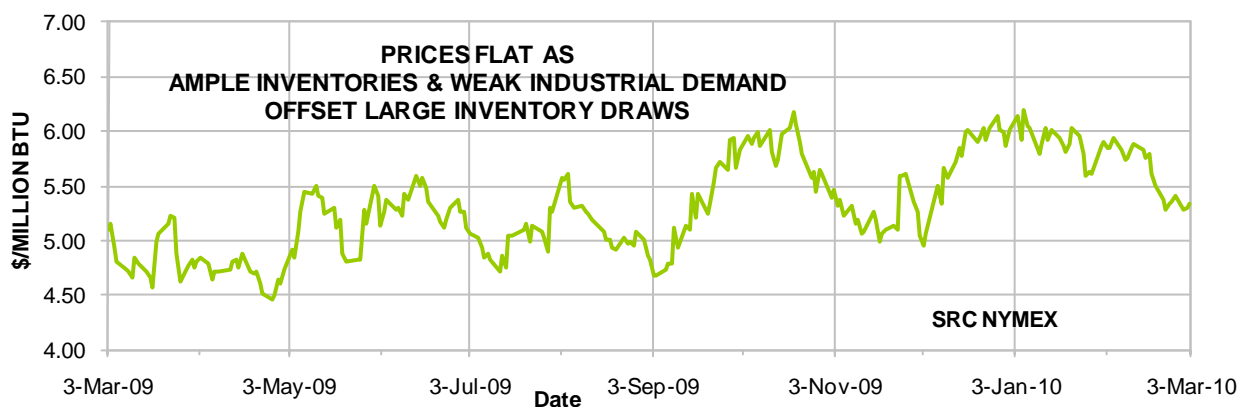


## Natural Gas



Natural gas inventories fell by 116 BCF this past week. This was 11% less than the expected 130 BCF and 7% less than the 5-year average of 124 BCF. Cumulative inventory withdrawals for this heating season are running 24% above the 5-year average. At 1,737 BCF, this week's inventory level is 3.9% lower than a year ago and only 1.2% above the five-year average. As an indication of how fast inventories have fallen, 4 weeks ago the corresponding numbers were 9.0% above a year ago and 6.6% above the 5-year average.

Futures prices were flat this past week with prices settling at \$5.334 per million BTU. This 4.6% (23.4 cents) higher than a year ago but 60.0% below the 2008 peak. The effects of larger than average inventory draws were offset by the drawing to a close of the heating season and the still ample storage levels. With warmer weather, spot prices were down 15 cents for the week to \$4.760 per million BTU, 7.4% higher than a year ago but 64.2% below their 2008 peak price.

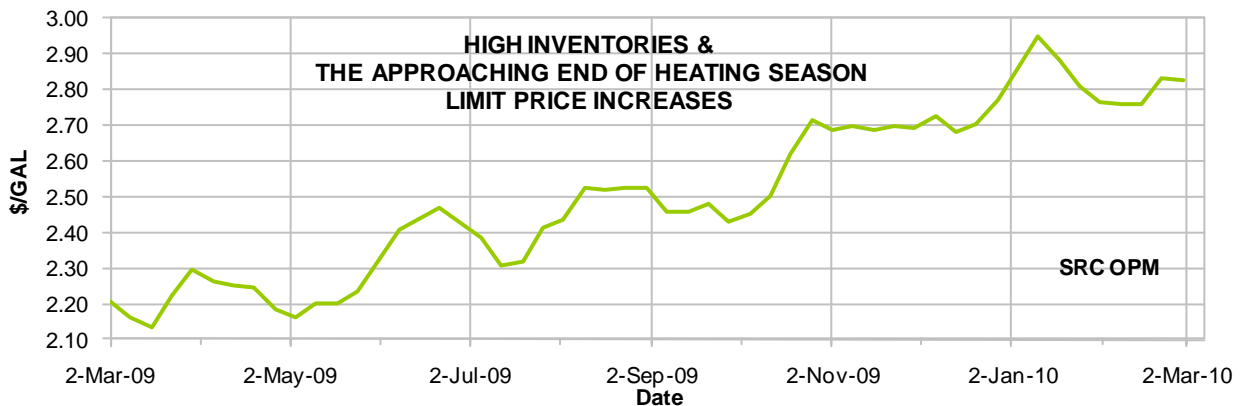


# Heating oil



Distillate stocks fell by only 0.8 million barrels this past week. This was lower than the expected 1.0 million decline and the 5-year average decline of 1.4 million. Inventory levels are still more than ample at 6.1% above last year and 20.7% above the five-year average.

Spot and futures prices continued to follow crude upward this past week. The 12 month strip is now at \$2.174/gal, 86.0 cents (65.4%) higher than a year ago. The spot price is at \$2.088 /gal, 91.5 cents (78.0%) above last year. Both spot and futures prices are about half of their 2008 peak prices. After rising by 7.6 cents over the previous two weeks retail prices fell by 0.7 cents this past week. At \$2.826/gal, prices are 62.0 cents (28.1%) above a year ago but are \$1.94 (40.7%) below the 2008 peak price. The highest price in this week's survey was \$3.399 and the lowest was \$2.479. This year's high inventory levels have helped to limit increases in retail prices. According to census data, 49.1% of dwelling units in Connecticut heat with oil.



## Connecticut Regional Heating Oil Prices

	FAIRFIELD			HARTFORD			NEW LONDON		
	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW
2-Mar-09	2.475	2.799	2.299	2.218	3.490	1.820	2.157	2.299	2.029
15-Feb-10	2.942	3.359	2.540	2.724	2.999	2.479	2.804	3.359	2.539
22-Feb-10	3.002	3.399	2.540	2.804	3.049	2.619	2.914	3.399	2.679
1-Mar-10	2.995	3.399	2.540	2.784	3.049	2.589	2.848	3.399	2.619
	LITCHFIELD			MIDDLESEX			TOLLAND-WINDHAM		
	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW
2-Mar-09	2.063	2.169	1.850	2.219	2.399	1.999	2.013	2.199	1.949
15-Feb-10	2.685	2.829	2.599	2.762	2.899	2.590	2.664	2.849	2.560
22-Feb-10	2.803	2.899	2.749	2.827	2.999	2.690	2.729	2.899	2.639
1-Mar-10	2.803	2.929	2.749	2.848	2.999	2.690	2.729	2.899	2.629
	NEW HAVEN								
	AVG	HIGH	LOW						
2-Mar-09	2.139	2.499	1.779						
15-Feb-10	2.695	2.990	2.440						
22-Feb-10	2.749	2.999	2.400						
1-Mar-10	2.757	2.999	2.479						

OPM conducts a weekly survey of retail heating oil prices in Connecticut. These figures reference the most recent results of that survey for the reporting week beginning March 1, 2010. Figures reflect per gallon prices without discount.

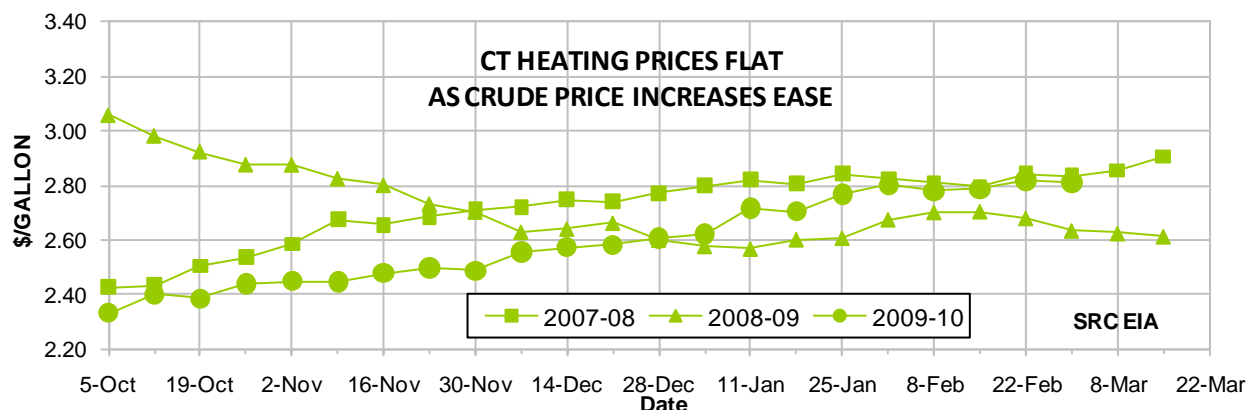
For more information, see [www.ct.gov/OPM](http://www.ct.gov/OPM) > Energy Management > Energy Price and Supply Information

# Propane



Propane inventory levels declined by only 0.5 million barrels this past week, much less than the five-year average decline of 2.1 million. Since October 9<sup>th</sup>, inventories have fallen by 46.1 million gallons, 58% greater than the 5-year average decline. Current storage levels now trail last year's levels by 30.2% and they are 20.2% below the five-year average.

Monday's Connecticut retail propane heating price survey showed an average price of \$2.812/gal, 0.5 cents/gal lower than the previous week. Prices are 6.7% (17.7 cents) higher than a year ago but 8.0% (24.5 cents) lower than the peak 2008 price. Propane spot prices fell by 8.1 cents this past week. At \$1.181 per gallon yesterday, they are 56.8 cents (92.6%) higher than a year ago but 40.3% lower than their peak 2008 price. According to census data, 2.7% of homes in Connecticut are heated by propane.



# Gasoline



Inventories rose by 0.8 million barrels this week, more than twice the anticipated 0.3 million gain and in sharp contrast to the 5-year average decline of 0.1 million. Inventories levels are 7.6% above last year and 3.8% above the 5-year average. Stocks are at their second highest level for this date since 1993.

Wednesday's spot price was \$2.145/gal, \$0.898 (71.9%) higher than last year. The 12-month strip, at \$2.175/gal, was \$0.901 (70.7%) higher than a year ago. Connecticut retail prices rose by 1.6 cents this past week and by 4.7 cents over the previous 2 weeks. This is after falling by 10.6 cents over the 4 weeks before. At \$2.850/gal, retail prices are 82.5 cents (40.7%) higher than a year ago but 35.1% below 2008's peak. While spot prices have risen by 72% over the past year and futures have risen by 71%, Connecticut retail prices have only risen by 41%.

